

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

Offered to Ohio Communities by the
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry

What is an EAB Management Plan?

- A written document outlining a municipality's objective and the approaches it will use to meet the current or anticipated impact of the Emerald Ash Borer on its urban forest resource.
- A blueprint that administrators and residents can follow with a high degree of confidence, rationality, and order.

Ohio's Current EAB Situation

Due to diminishing federal funds, Ohio's EAB management strategy will include fewer eradication projects and more monitoring and regulatory activities. For communities this has two very important consequences:

- The possibility that EAB will be discovered in your area or in your community is increasing.
- The possibility that the state will remove ash trees as part of an eradication project is decreasing.

Why Do You Need An EAB Management Plan?

- Whether you are in an EAB infested area now or will be at some future time, you need to determine those activities that must be performed to address the threat to your urban forest resource.
- By developing, communicating, and implementing a management plan, you will be acting in a reasonable and responsible fashion to this crisis.

How To Use This Document

The following are action elements that a community may include in their EAB Management Plan. A short italicized example follows a description of each action element.

Helpful Hints:

- Not all action elements will be applicable for every community.
- Choose elements that address your community's needs.
- Action elements that should be included in every community's management plan are marked with an asterisk (*).

ACTION ELEMENT

Title

Identify the Plan and place it in context with other municipal/townships policies.

Title Example

An Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for the City of _____

As approved by City Council on March 15, 2006

ACTION ELEMENT

Purpose

Declare the purpose and intent of the Plan and how it affects public health, safety, and welfare.

Purpose Example

By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the City is attempting to mitigate the disruption to its urban forest caused by the pending infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Taking a proactive approach to this invasion will enable the City to address public and private needs in an efficient and effective manner.

The City will endeavor to distribute the costs associated with certain and massive tree death over a manageable time period, as well as lessen the social and economic impact that such an extensive loss will have on the quality of life in our community.

ACTION ELEMENT

Applicability Example

This Plan applies throughout the City on all public properties where ash trees are currently growing, as well as on private properties where such trees may negatively impact public rights-of-ways or other public properties.

ACTION ELEMENT

Administration

Identify the municipal agency responsible for ensuring implementation and compliance.

Administration Example

The City Forester, through the Parks and Recreation Department, will be responsible for implementing this Plan and seeing that its provisions are carried out.

ACTION ELEMENT

Definitions

Define any technical terms that may be misunderstood or need clarification.

Definitions Example

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)

The diameter (inches) of a trunk cross section measured at 4 ½' above the ground

Compliance Agreement

Official Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) approval for moving regulated items outside of a quarantine zone

Quarantine Zone

ODA-designated area restricting the movement of regulated items

Regulated Items

All ash wood and all non-coniferous firewood

ACTION ELEMENT

**Ash Removal*

Inventory all publicly owned ash trees, and prioritize a removal plan.

Ash Removal Example

The City will conduct an inventory of all ash trees growing on its rights-of-way, in parks, and on other municipal properties. For each ash tree, its location, size, and condition will be collected. An estimated budget and timeframe will be generated from the inventory data. The City will systematically remove all of its ash trees. Tree removal will be prioritized with hazardous trees being removed first followed by those that are no longer assets to the community (dead, dying, diseased, or miss-sited). Utility contractors will be encouraged to remove all ash within their easements as part of their normal line clearance activities. An ash tree inventory spreadsheet or database will be created, updated, and used to prioritize and record the removal, treatment, or status of each tree.

ACTION ELEMENT

Monitoring

Identify possible sources of EAB importation into the community such as campgrounds, nurseries, and firewood dealers; and monitor nearby ash trees for infestation. Create a detection tree program.

Monitoring Example

Strategically located non-asset ash trees will be annually selected and prepared as detection trees. These trees will be set up before May 1st and removed for examination in Sept/Oct. If an EAB infestation is discovered, a thorough survey of the surrounding area will be made and acted upon. All ash wood from pruning or removals shall be inspected for EAB by looking for D-shaped exit holes and removing the bark to find larval galleries. All possible sources of artificial EAB importation into the community such as nearby campgrounds, nurseries, firewood dealers, and firewood piles will be monitored.

ACTION ELEMENT

Wood Utilization and Disposal

For quarantined communities spell out each step necessary for Ohio Department of Agriculture compliance. Develop a wood utilization and disposal strategy.

Wood Utilization and Disposal Example

The City will develop a plan to use the wood generated during the removal program. The plan must comply with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's regulations for handling regulated materials. Wood that cannot be used for lumber, turning, firewood, or mulch, will be disposed of according to ODA specifications. Refer to appendix for a list of companies with ODA compliance agreements.

ACTION ELEMENT

Communications

Develop a Communication Plan by outlining and prioritizing target groups, your intended messages, and possible media delivery systems.

Communications Example

The mayor, city council, tree commission, and department heads will receive periodic briefings through normal channels.

All media relations will follow normal municipal protocol.

ACTION ELEMENT

Education

Identify educational needs for staff, residents, and contractors; i.e., tree and pest identification.

Education Example

A training session for in-house staff, contractors, tree commissioners, and residents will be held to discuss the pending infestation and to provide ash and EAB identification tips.

ACTION ELEMENT

**Canopy Replacement and Care*

Develop a tree replacement and maintenance strategy with an emphasis on species diversity and restoring canopy cover. Replacement strategy should include possible species, locations, stock specifications, planting instructions, and future care information. Include a reasonable timeframe.

Canopy Replacement and Care Example

As the budget permits, all removed public ash trees will be replaced with non-host species that will enhance the planting site, are appropriate for the planting site, and add to the diversity and general health of the urban forest. Trees will be planted in accordance with the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association/Ohio Division of Forestry Tree Planting Specifications (see Appendix), be in the 1 ¼" to 2" caliper range, and obtained from ONLA member firms. Plantings will be budget based and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the City Forester. Those areas needing the most trees to reach their goal will be planted first, such as Suburban Residential (50% cover), Urban Residential (25%), and Central Business (15%). No plantings will be made that cannot be adequately maintained. All new plantings will conform to the "10-20-30" tree species diversity rule.

ACTION ELEMENT

Postponed Work

Describe how normal urban forest management activities will be affected and for how long; i.e., pruning cycle, planting projects, leaf pickup.

Postponed Work Example

While financial, staffing, and equipment resources are focused on the EAB Management Plan some usual services will either be delayed or put on hold indefinitely. The Timmons Road Planting Project is on hold, as is our six-year pruning cycle.

ACTION ELEMENT

Other Departments

Outline how the lead agency will work cooperatively with other municipal departments such as public service, finance, parks and recreation, etc.

Other Departments Example

The City Forester will provide bi-weekly briefings to the Finance and Public Services Departments. Parks and Recreation Department will supply vehicles, equipment, field support, and personnel upon request by the City Forester through normal channels.

ACTION ELEMENT

**Private Ash Trees*

What information, services, or mutual assistance will you provide to residential and commercial properties? Give serious consideration to implementing a tree care company permit system to address work quality and safety issues.

Dead and dying ash trees, not promptly removed by the property owner, may pose a safety concern to adjacent private and public sites. Whether handled by combative neighbors through the legal system, or a condemnation process by the municipality, there should be a procedure in place to address these trees.

Private Ash Trees Example

The City will create and maintain an EAB Informational Page on the City's website. In the spring and fall the City will purchase non-EAB host, large canopy, replacement trees. Residents and businesses interested in acquiring trees at a wholesale price may purchase trees through this program. The City will provide site selection, planting, and maintenance information to each participant in this program.

ACTION ELEMENT

Contact List

Provide a list of helpful individuals, agencies, or companies, such as the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, local media, Woodmizer, etc.

Contact List Example

Ohio Division of Forestry

Marianne Prue; EAB Urban Forester

EAB program organizational, technical, educational support

OSU Extension

Nancy Kronberg; EAB specialist

Public education support and facilitation

ACTION ELEMENT

Hiring an Arborist

Include information for residents and businesses on how to locate and employ qualified tree care contractors.

Hiring an Arborist Example

This information will be posted on the City's EAB website, and hardcopies will be available at all public facilities and forums. (See appendix)

ACTION ELEMENT

Approved Contractors' List

Provide a list of arborist firms you feel are competent, qualified, and available based on your permit system.

Approved Contractors' List Example

A permit system, ensuring the qualifications of companies performing arboricultural work within the City, will be implemented. All commercial companies involved in tree pruning, removal, installation, and wood disposal will require a permit from the City. A list of permitted firms will be maintained and updated weekly on the City's EAB website and made available for mailing through the City Forester's office.

ACTION ELEMENT

Budget

Identify a budget and timeframe for dealing with this issue.

Budget Example

Inventory

\$2,500, completed summer of '06

Ash Removal

\$60,000, over next five years

Replacement

\$37,500, over next five years

Wood Disposal

\$7,500, over next five years

Total = \$107,500

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